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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: PINT, XG
SUBJECT: FOUNDING MEETING OF EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC UNION
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1. BEGIN SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF 18 EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC AND CONSERVATIVE PARTIES MET IN SALZBURG, AUSTRIA 23-24 TO FORM A UNION TO COUNTER THREATS OF COLLECTIVISM AND RIGHT AND LEFT POLITICAL EXTREMISM. FOUNDING FATHERS OF ALLIANCE, TO BE KNOWN AS EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC UNION (EDU), SIGNED DECLARATION OF

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PRINCIPLES TO PROMOTE HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS, FREEDOM AND LIBERTY, OPEN PLURALIST SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MARKET ECONOMY. FOUNDING DOCUMENT ALSO SETS FORTH EDU'S DETERMINATION TO COMBAT INFLUENCE OF TOTALITARIAN SYSTEMS AND THREATS TO WESTERN SOCIETY OF POLITICAL EXTREMISM. AUSTRIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY CHAIRMAN TAUS WAS ELECTED EDU CHAIRMAN AND FIVE WORKING GROUPS - FULL EMPLOYMENT, EUROCOMMUNISM, EUROPEAN STRUCTURES, ENVIRONMENT AND COORDINATION - WERE SET UP. ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES ARE FORESEEN TO ESTABLISH JOINT POLICIES ON CRITICAL ISSUES AND TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE EDU POSITIONS ON ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. MOST PROMINENT PARTICIPANTS IN MEETING WERE BRITISH CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER MRS. THATCHER AND WEST GERMAN CDU AND CSU LEADERS MESSRS. KOHL AND STRAUSS. BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT WAS ABSENCE AT MEETING OF LEADERS FROM ITALIAN AND BENELUX CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC PARTIES BUT ORGANIZERS ARE HOPEFUL OF GETTING THEMTO JOIN LATE. WHILE UNARTICULATED BY FOUNDERS, ONE OF MAIN REASONS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF EDU IS TO COUNTERBALANCE POWER AND INFLUENCE OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. FOUNDING MEETING WENT ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE AND EADERS LEFT FEELING THEY HAD COMPLETED DIFFICULT AND LONG OVERDUE TASK. END SUMMARY.

2. INTRODUCTION: LEADERS OF 18 EUROPEAN PARTIES CLAIMING TO REPRESENT 56 MILLION VOTERS FROM 15 WEST EUROPEAN

STATES MET IN SALZBURG, AUSTRIA, APRIL 23-24, 1978 TO ESTABLISH THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC UNION (EDU). MEETING MARKED CULMINATION OF AN EFFORT GOING BACK MORE THAN TEN YEARS WHEN AUSTRIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (OVP) FIRST ATTEMPTED, ALSO IN SALZBURG, TO BRING TOGETHER NUMBER OF LIKE-MINDED EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTIES TO FORM SOME SORT OF LOOSE CONFEDERATION. ACCORDING TO ITS FOUNDERS, EDU IS NOT EUROPEAN-WIDE POLITICAL PARTY BUT "WORKING ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC, CONSERVATIVE AND OTHER NON-COLLECTIVIST PARTIES."

3. PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN MEETING: PARTIES AND SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES WHO SIGNED FOUNDING DOCUMENT WERE:

AUSTRIA - OESTERREICHISCHE VOLKSPARTEI, NATIONAL PARTY CHAIRMAN DR. JOSEF.TAUS;
DENMARK - DET KONSERVATIVE FOLKEPARTI, PARTY CHAIRMAN DR. POUL SCHLUETER;
FINLAND - KANSALLINEN KOKOOMUS, PARTY CHAIRMAN HARRI HOLKERI;
FRANCE - RESSEMBLEMENT POUR LE REPUBLIQUE (RPR), PRESIDENT OF FOREIGN POLICY COMMITTEE MAURICE COUVE DE

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MURVILLE;
FRG - CHRISTLICH DEMOKRATISCHE UNION (CDU), PARTY
CHAIRMAN DR. HELMUT KOHL AND CHRISTLICH SOZIALE UNION
(CSU), PARTY CHAIRMAN DR. FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS;
NORWAY - HOYRE HOVEDORGANISASJON, PARTY CHAIRMAN
ERLING NORVIK;
PORTUGAL - CENTRO DEMOCRATICO SOCIAL, PARTY CHAIRMAN
PROFESSOR DIOGO FREITAS DO AMARAL;
SWEDEN - MODERATA SAMLINGSPARTIET, FACTION CHAIRMAN
BERTIL LIDGARD; AND
UNITED KINGDOM - CONSERVATIVE PARTY, PARTY CHAIRMAN

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THE RT. HON. MRS. MARGRET THATCHER.

IN ADDITION, FOLLOWING EIGHT PARTIES OPTED FOR OBSERVER
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STATUS IN EDU:
SWEDEN-SVENSKA POLKPARIET DUPUTY PARTY CHAIRMAN
INGVAR MELIN;
FRANCE-PARTI REPUBLICAIN (PR), INTERNATIONAL
SECRETARY PROFESSOR FRANCIS DORE;
GREECE-NEA DEMOKRATIA, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF FOREIGN
POLICY COMMITTEE PROFESSOR DR. STRATIS STRATIGIS;
ITALY-SUEDTIROLER VOLKSPARTEI, DEPURTY PARTY CHARIMAN
DR. ROLAND RIZ AND TRENTINER TIROLER VOLKSPARTEI,
SECRETARY GENERAL DR. HEINRICH PRUNER;
MALTA-PARTIT NAZZJONALISTA, PARTY CHAIRMAN DR. EDWARD
FENECH ADAMI;
SPAIN-UNION DE CENTRO DEMOCRATICO, SECRETARY GENERAL
FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS JAVIER RUPEREZ; AND
SWITZERLAND-CHRISTLICHE VOLKSPARTEI, PARTY PRESIDIUM
MEMBER DR. GERTRUD SPIEES.

PRESENT AS GUESTS WERE PRESIDENT OF UNION OF EUROPEAN
CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATS KAI UWE VON HASSEL AND CHAIRMAN OF
FACTION OF EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY IN EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT DR. EGON KLEPSCH.

4. FOUNDING DECLARATION: EDU FOUNDING DOCUMENT CONSISTS
OF TWO PARTS: ONE AND ONE-HALF PAGE GENERAL STATEMENT OF
PRINCIPLES AND ONE PAGE OF STATUTES. STATEMENT OF
PRINCIPLES, COUCHED IN VERY BROAD TERMS, DISCRIBES WHAT
EDU STANDS FOR AND WHAT IT OPPOOSES. FIRST CATEGORY
STRESSES STRONG COMMITMENT OF FOUNDING PARTIES TO
DEMOCRACY, LIBERTY, DIGNITY OF MAN, HUMAN RIGHTS, RULE
OF LAW, FREE ELECTIONS, PLURALISTIC SOCIETY,FMAILY AS
NATURAL UNIT OF SOCIETY, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD
WEAK, SUPPORT OF LESS DEVELOPED WORLD, CLOSER EUROPEAN
COOPERATION AND SOCIAL MARKET ECONOMY.
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5. SECOND CATEGORY-WHAT EDU OPPOSES OR REJECTS-
INCLUDES "THREATS TO ACHIEVEMENTS OF DEMOCCGACY AND
LIBERTY...FROM EXTREME LEFT AND EXTREME RIGHT,

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TOTALITARIANISM, INCLUDING ALL MATERIALISTIC AND COLLECTIVISTIC DOGMAS, AND CLASS STRUGGLE AS MEANS OF DEALING WITH SOCIAL CONFLICTS.
6. USE OF FOREGOING PHRASEOLOGY IN DECLARATION ATTEMPS TO REENFORCE EDU'S CLAIM TO REPRESENT MIDDLE-OF-ROAD PARTIES CONCERNED WITH PROTECTING RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND PRESERVATION OF OPEN, PLURALIST POLITICAL SOCIETY AGAINST WHAT IS SEEN AS DOMESTIC AND FOEIGN THREATS FROM COLLECTIVIST AND TOTALITARIAN MOVEMETSS. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES CAN ALSO BE READ AS CLEAR EFFORT TO DELINEATE EDU MEMBER PARTIES FROM PARTIES IN WESTERN EUROPE OF MARXIST ORIGINS, INCLUDING SOCIALIST ONES.

7. EDU STATUTES: MEMBERSHIP INEDU IS OPEN TO ALL PARTIES WHICH SUBCCRIBE TO PRINCIPLES IN DECLARATION. OBERSVER STATUS BY INVITATION IS OPEN TO EUROPEAN AS WELL AS NON-EUROPEAN PARTIES, AN AD HOC OR PERMANENT BASIS. AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS FORESEEN WITH AD HOC MEETINGS AS NEEDED ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS. ELECTED EDU CHAIRMAN HOLDS OFFICE FOR TWO-YEAR TERM. HE, IN TURN, SELECTS EDU EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTRATION OF EDU. EDU OFFICE IS LOCATED IN COUNTRY OF EDU CHAIRMAN.

8. ACCORDING TO STATUTES, OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF EDU ARE (1) ESTABILISHMENT OF COMMON POSITIONS OF IMPORTANT POLICY PROBLEMS OF EUROPEAN-WIDE INTEREST AND (2) EXTENSION OF MUTUAL AID AND SOLIDARITY REGARIDNG SOLUTION OF PARTICULAR PROBLEMS OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES.

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND SPECIAL STUDY OR WORKING COMMITTEES
ARE TO BE VEHICLE TO ACHIEVE EDU OBJECTIVES.

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9. MAIN SPEAKERS AT MEETING: MAIN SPEAKERS WERE MRS.
THATCHER, MESSRS. KOHL AND STRAUSS FROM FRG, AND DR. TAUS
FROM AUSTRIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY WHICH HOSTED MEETING.
SPEECHES WERE UPBEAT AND EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION
THAT POLITICAL PARTIES PRESENT AT MEETING WERE FINALLY
ABLE AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF EFFORT TO FORM UNION. MOST
SPEECHES EMPHASIZED INCREASED NEED TO PROTECT HUMAN AND
CIVIL RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUAL AGAINST GROWTH OF COLLECTIVIST
PHILOSOPHIES THROUGHOUT WORLD AND THEIR INCREASED
ACCEPTANCE AS NORMAL DEVELOPMENT.
10. NOTEWORTHY NUANCES WERE ALSO STRUCK BY SEVERAL
SPEAKERS. FOR EXAMPLE, MRS. THATCHER STRESSED NEED FOR
UNITY OF LIKE-MINDED IN FACE OF MAJOR THREAT OF MARXISM
AGAINST BASIC FREEDOMS. FRG KOHL EXPRESSED HOPE THAT
OTHER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES WOULD JOIN EDU AT
LATER DATE AND REAFFIRMED EDU REMAINING FAITHFUL TO ITS
COMMITMENT TO EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY. STRAUSS, FOR HIS
PART, MINCED NO WORDS ABOUT HIS STRONG ANTIPATHY TO
SOCIALISM IN ALL ITS FORMS, STATING THAT ONE OF MAIN TASKS
OF EDU WOULD BE TO LEAD "INTELLECTUAL STRUGGLE AGAINST
SOCIALISM AND COLLECTIVISM." HE ALSO SAID EDU SHOULD
HELP EUROPE FIND ITS APPROPRIATE PLACE IN WORLD WHICH CAN
ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY CREATING A UNITED AND STRONG EUROPE.

11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND WORK PROGRAM: AS
ANTICIPATED, AUSTRIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY CHAIRMAN TAUS WAS

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UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED EDU CHAIRMAN. HE APPOINTED AS EDU EXECUTIVE SECRETARY DR. ANDREAS KHOL, HEAD OF PEOPLE'S PARTY POLITICAL ACADEMY. EDU OFFICE WILL BE LOCATED IN VIENNA AT YET TO BE DECIDED ADDRESS.

12. DECISIONS WERE ALSO TAKEN TO SET UP FIVE WORKING GROUPS (WG) ON FOLLOWING SUBJECTS: FULL EMPLOYMENT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EUROCOMMUNISM, EUROPEAN STRUCTURES (EC-9, EFTA, EUROPEAN UNION), ENVIRONMENT, AND COORDINATION. MEMBERSHIP OF LATTER GROUP WILL CONSIST OF SECRETARIES GENERAL OF MEMBER PARTIES OF EDU WITH EDU CHAIRMAN PRESIDING. DESIGNATION OF WG TO STUDY FULL EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTS CLEAR RECOGNITION BY NON-MARXIST PARTIES OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, OF NEED TO COUNTER CLAIMS OF CENTER-LEFT PARTIES OF THEIR BEING ONLY PARTIES CONCERNED ABOUT WORKERS' ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING. WG ON EUROCOMMUNISM REPORTEDLY WILL PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO EDU MEMBERS ON REALITIES AND MYTHS ASSOCIATED WITH EUROCOMMUNISM CONCEPT AND HOW TO USE SUCH DATA FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. WG ON EUROPEAN STRUCTURES IS DESIGNED TO GIVE EDU POLITICAL PARTIES OUTSIDE EC-9 AN EFFECTIVE CONDUIT TO EC-9 DEVELOPMENTS IN BRUSSELS.

13. POSSIBLE FUTURE EXPANSION OF EDU: MOST SERIOUS SHORTCOMING OF ORGANIZERS OF SALZBURG GATHERING WAS THEIR INABILITY TO OBTAIN PARTICIPATION OF CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC PARTIES FROM ITALY AND BENELUX COUNTRIES IN EDU FOUNDING MEETING. ABSENCE OF ITALIAN CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATS WAS ESPECIALLY SORELY FELT. EDU SPOKESMAN AT PRESS CONFERENCE OFFERED NO CREDIBLE EXPLANATION FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PARTY WOULD JOIN EDU AT LATER DATE. TO SOFTEN IMPACT OF ABSENCE, POINT WAS MADE THAT CONTACTS BY INDIVIDUAL EDU MEMBER PARTIES WITH ITALIAN AND BENELUX CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC PARTIES ARE BEING FULLY MAINTAINED THROUGH UNION OF EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATS AND THROUGH CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC FACTION IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BY WEST GERMAN CDU AND CSU.

14. ACCORDING TO WELL INFORMED SOURCE AT SALZBURG MEETING, CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC PARTIES THAT DID NOT PARTICIPATE STAYED AWAY FROM EDU FOUNDING MEETING BECAUSE IN FACING

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ELECTION CAMPAIGN FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THEY WISH TO
BE MORE CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH CENTER-LEFT RATHER THAN
CENTER-RIGHT POLITICAL FORCES IN WESTERN EUROPE. BRITISH
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CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND STRAUSS-LED BAVARIAN CSU WERE
CITED AS EXAMPLES OF LATTER CATEGORY. THIS CONCERN OVER
"TOO CONSERVATIVE" IMAGE OF EDU WAS ALSO APPARENT IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM NEUTRAL
AND MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES WHO OPTED FOR OBSERVER RATHER
THAN MEMBERSHIP STATUS IN EDU. HENCE A STRONG EFFORT
REPORTEDLY WILL BE MADE DURING NEXT TWO YEARS TO CONVINCE

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MISSING EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND OTHER CENTER PARTIES TO JOIN EDU. LINE OF ARGUMENTATION WILL BE THAT DEMOCRATIC SUBSTANCE OF EDU DECLARATION AND NOT TITLES OF MEMBER PARTIES SHOULD BE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION IN ESTABLISHING RELATIONSHIP TO EDU. BORG

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